# BLOCK IN THE WAY OF 3 CENT FARES.

Assemblyman Nixon's Bill Has a Large Loophole for the Companies.

By Increasing Their Capital Stock They Can Effectually Prevent the Reduction.

CAINIONS FROM BOTH SIDES.

Wage-Earners Say a Saving of Two Cents Means a Great Deal, While Railway Officials Assert That It Would Bankrupt Them.

the Editor of the Journal: ditions of the franchise. I am not posted as to the street car business in Detroit and other cities which are agitating the reduction of the general fare, but I understand that in some of them the city was com-pelled to lay the tracks and also keep streets between the tracks in repair. In Cincinnati the companies are paying \$4 per car li-cense fee and 5 per cent, of the gross receipts into the city treasary, and are also required to keep streets in good repair. I therefore think that the city of Cincinnati and the citizens who patronize the street car companies are receiving fair treatment at the present fare of five cents,

JOHN A. CALDWELL, Mayor.

Cincinnati, O., February 14.

Should Assemblyman Nixon's bill to re-

duce the fares on all surface and ele-vated roads in the State during certain hours in the morning and evening become a law, which is very doubtful, it would not worry the companies, as the bill has been so drawn that the companies have been carefully protected. The bill provides that: Every street surface railroad and elevated road in any of the cities and villages of this State shall sell tickets as low as thirty for \$1. which tickets shall be good between the hours of 8 a, m, and 8 a, m., and between the hours of 5 p. m. and 7 p. m., of each and every week day, whenever the gross earnings of any such roads are sufficient to pay operating expenses, repairs, maintenance, interest and fixed charges, together with a dividend of 5 per cent upon its capital stock, and shall provide rea-sonable places along its line where such tickets

As there is no law in the State that prevents a corporation from increasing its capital stock to any amount it may de-sire, it can readily be seen that such a law would never reduce the fares at all, as it would be an easy matter for a corpora tion to call a meeting of its directors and acrease its stock in case it was liable to which such a law could be enforced would be to pass a law limiting the capitalization of stock to a certain amount in excess of the cash actually invested in the enter-

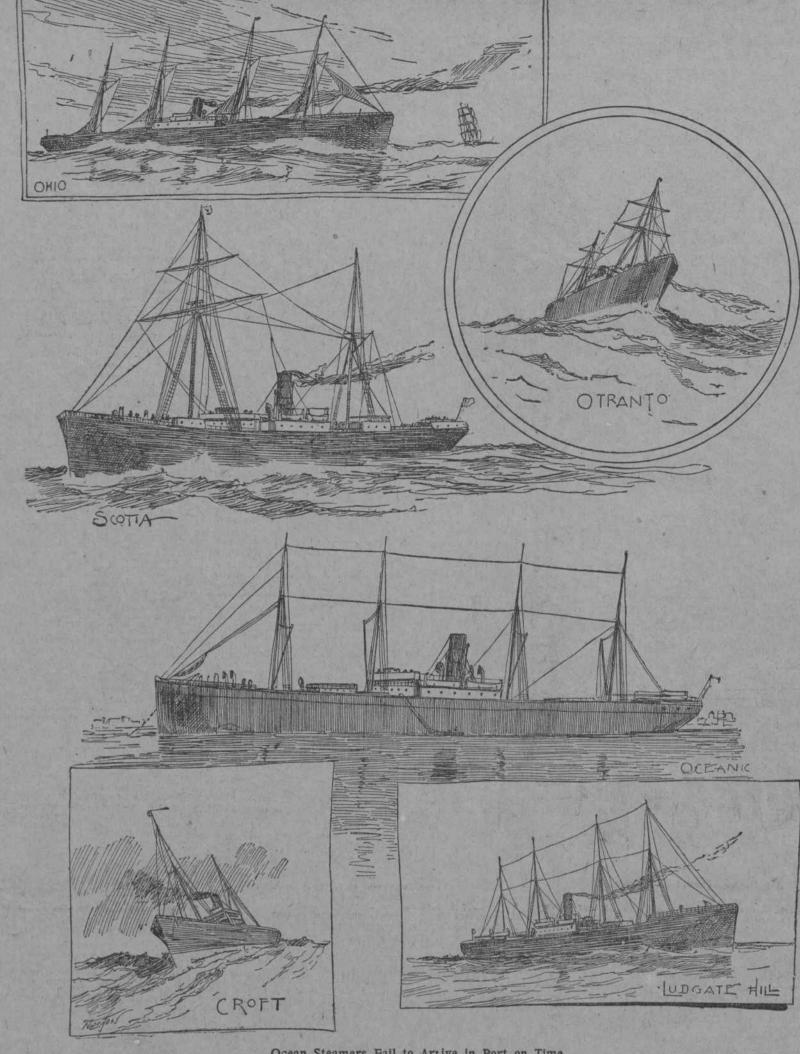
The introduction of such a bill is re garded in this city as an attempt upon the part of the Republican majority to make aign cipital. Very few people expect the bill after it is placed in the the Railroad Committee,

THE PUBLIC WOULD COSE.

ALBERT J. ELIAS. PRESIDENT OF THE Third Avenue Railroad Company: The very best proof of the faisity of Mayor Fingree's statement that a 5-cent system is a swindle and that fortunes can be made from 3-cent and even from 2-cent roads is the real present condition of our own roads here in New York, on all of which the forest events level. of which the 5-cent system is used. We barely declare dividends as it is, on a 5cent basis, and what could we do on a 3-cent one? Goodness knows what the Legislature at Albany will do. But if the Three-Cent bill is passed it will be in spite of the liveliest opposition. We can-not zet a living out of a Lecont system in New York for those that carry on the roads, and if we are compelled to reduce our fares the best thing we and o is to step down from our offices and out of the ness. Perhaps, Pingree thinks that more people would travel with 3-cent fares. But that is a mistake, In New York everybody rides, everybody has to ride and there would be no perceptible increase in the number of passengers, whilethe fall ingoff inour receiptswould be rapid and BENEY HART, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE

Third Avenue Railway Company: While I do not anticipate that this measure will pass, yet if it does become a law it will work more harm than benefit to the laborlog people. A three-cent fare would reduce the profits of the street railway companies to so great an extent that they, as a mere matter of self preservation, would be compelled to do away with the transfer system and that would cause a loss to the working people of New York of such magnitude that it would be impossible to co Whereas under the present system an individual can ride on three and even four different lines for a single fare of five cents he would be compelled under the proposed three-cent tariff to pay twelve cents for similar transporta There is no doubt in my mind but that this is an ante-campaign measure, con-ceived with the idea of compelling the corporations to contribute more liberally to the campaign fund. Even if the measure should pass I do not believe that it would stand before our courts of law as a constitutional enactment. If it should pass, and if it should stand it would be the worst thing that ever happened to the WASHINGTON E. CONNOR. FINANCIER

This agitation for a three-cent fare on the elevated and surface roads is, I have no doubt, a purely political scheme. I be-Beve that this three-cent agitation is being spread for the sole purpose of inducting the surface and elevated railroads of New York to contribute with unusual liberallty to the campaign funds. While it it very doubtful in my mind if such a even should it do so and receive the signature of the Governor, it would never stand. About 1883 the Legislature passed a bill ordering the Manhattan Elevated Company to reduce the fare from ten to five cents. This measure Governor Cleve-land promptly vetoed on the ground that a corporation created by legislative coactment, and in whose articles of incorporation the amount of fare to be charged was expressly stipulated, cannot be compelled by the Legislature to reduce or in any way change that rate of fare. There to be but little doubt in the minds of all the jurists whom I have heard discuss the matter that Governor Cleveland Therefore, if this measure should pass the Legislature its constituthousalty will be vigorously questioned in the courts of law of New York and, if mecessary, of the United States, Such a measure as this would undoubtedly result



Ocean Steamers Fail to Arrive in Port on Time.

Heavy storms have prevented several of the ocean steamships from arriving on time. The British freighter Oceanic is drifting about on the sea in a disabled condition. She is light and has to depend on her canvas to carry her. The Oceanic's agents do not think she is lost, but say she will have to be towed in. The Ohio and Otranto are also overdue, but the delay is attributed to heavy storms, and the steam ships are thought to be safe. The Ludgate Hill, Croft and Scotia are somewhere on the Atlantic headed toward this port. They falled to arrive yesterday.

in the lessening of a number of the employes of all the corporations involved. It would also result in a cheaper grade of rolling stock and equipment and a corresponding lessening of conveniences to the travelling public. It would not only throw many men out of employment, but it would decrease the rate of wages. fail to see where the working man will profit by all this.

## CABOR LEADERS FAVOR 15.

IOHN SWINTON, LABOR LEADER: MOST EMphatically I am in favor of a three-c fare on all the street milroads. Make it two cents, if possible, or even one cent In Moscow they make half a million a year on one road which charges a penny ride. By all means curtail the profits of the monopolists, and let the laboring men live. Live and let live! The capitalists must give the workingman his rights. Without doubt the rate of travel should be reduced, but make it one cent if you can. The very smallest coin in our currency is the best for the railroad mag-

AMES RYAN, DELEGATE OF THE PHOTO. Engravers' Union: I believe that the fares should be as low as possible. If the fares were 3 cents more people would ride, and the companies would still have handsome dividends. In a city like New and many, if the fares were reduced to 3 cents, would rather ride than walk a do en blocks, to save time. To the great bulk of people the difference between 3 and 5 cents means something which would determine whether they could afford to ride or not

CHARLES F. REICHERS, PRESIDENT OF the United Garment Workers of America: I believe the city should become the own-In every case where the city or Government has taken control of anything in

WHAT A THREE-CENT FARE MEANS TO TOILERS.

persons. Two-thirds of these 15,000 employes have to ride to and from the stores. Of this 10,000 about 500 pay six carfares daily, 2,000 pay four carfares, and 7,500 two

carfares. What the difference in fares means to these people is shown by the fol-

-Daily.- | -Weekly.- | -Yearly.-At5 | At3 | At5 | At3 | At5 | At3 cents, cents, cents, cents, cents.

\$1,300 \$780 \$7,800 \$4,870 \$408,600 \$242,840 \$163,760

There are in New York City ten retail stores, in each of which are employed 1,500

which the public benefit is concerned, the result has been lower rates. The portal system is the best illustration of this, and, to come down to local matters, the Brooklyn Bridge. Every lowering of the price of tickets on the Bridge has been followed by an increase of traffic. HERMAN ROBINSON, SECRETARY OF THE

Executive Committee of the Brotherhood of Tailors: I am, as a workingman and a citizen, strongly in favor of the reduction of fures on the street car lines to three cents. It has been shown by the reduction of fares on the Manhattan Elevated some years ago from ten cents to five cents that it pays to reduce fares, as the traffic on the Manhattan Elevated became more than doubled. Apart from this, street cars, as a condition of the granting of the franchises, are supposed to be run for the benefit of the public. Many thousands of poor people who walk because they feel they cannot afford to pay car fare would ride if the fare were reduced. HENRY WHITE, GENERAL SECRETARY OF

the United Garment Workers of America: The model city of Detroit has shown the advantage of a 3-cent fare. The economy in management and improvements made in local transit ought to be shared in by the community. The people have been wonderfully lavish in giving the valuable franchise of the public streets to companies with bardly any compensation. The Legislative Investigating Committee recently showed what immense profits are withstanding the watered stock, Cheap fares and better transit facilities would quickly settle the suburbs of the city by those now crowded in the tenement districts. Personally, I would favor the les assuming the ownership and control of the railroads and reducing the fares to the cost of operation. The railroad com-panies ought to be broadminded enough for their own preservation to grant the 3 cent fare as an answer to the steadily in-

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12.48

creasing sentiment in favor of municipal

### ownership of the street rallways. OBJECTED TO IN BROOKLYN.

MENERAL JAMES JOURDAN, PRESIDENT OF Brooklyn: In the first place, Mayor Pingree's letter is of a communistic istic, anti-corporation spirit. He apparently knows very little of the operating of street railways. The man who argues that a five-cent fare is too much knows nothing whatever of the cost of maintaining a street railroad. The only way to get at what would be a reasonable fare would be to find the cost of moving each car per mile, and then calculating bow many people it would take to pay the cost of operation. There is not a railway system in this city, with one possible ex-ception, that pays. I know that the road with which I am connected would gladly give itself over to the city for the original cost of construction and interest thereon to date. The transfer systems of this city help to make profit a hard thing to gain. One can ride all over the city for five cents. Some days ago the managers of a railway system here sent out two parties of two men each, with instructions to see how little it would cost them to ride around Brooklyn for ten hours. The result was that two of the men spent five cents apiece and the other two did not spend a cent. The two latter men took advantage of the crowd at a transfer point and secured tickets. An excellent answer to Mayor Pingree's letter is here before me. I now am signing my name to debenture income bonds in lieu of coupons that were attached to second mortgage bonds that have been surrendered. We couldn't pay them. Fortunately the public did not buy them, or we could not have gotten them. back. They were bought by people having an interest in the road. With a threecent fare nearly all the railways of Brooklyn would go into the hands of receivers.

PREDERICK UHLMAN, PRESIDENT OF the Brooklyn Elevated Rallway Company: I do not think that 3-cent fares will ever be the rule of Brooklyn roads, The roads could not make any money at all. The only condition upon which 3-cent fares would ever be successful would be when the employes willingly accept such wages as are paid to laborers in Italy or China, for instance. If the Legislature of this State sees fit to pass an act requiring a fare to be no greater than 8 cents, then the laboring man will have to pay

EDWARD MERRITT, PRESIDENT OF THE Brooklyn City Railroad Company: There is but one thing to say in regard to this, and that is that the roads could not earn enough to pay the interest due on their bonds. There would be no profit at all. The great mistake that men make in this subject is that they seek to make a comparison between a road that has routes eight or ten miles long and one that has lines of probably not one-quarter

that length. On some of our routes the cars make runs of ten miles, and over with a 5-cent fare. The lines pay during about two months of the Summer, but after that there is no profit. A 3cent fare would mean that nearly every road in Brooklyn would go into the hands

of a receiver in six months, L. ROSSITER, PRESIDENT OF THE Brooklyn Heights Railway Company: Our weekly pay-roll averages \$45,000, and it has been our policy to increase the pay of the company's employes as rapidly and as decrease might follow, in fact-if threecent fares were instituted. The majority of the people would be very much better pleased with good transportation service at a charge of five cents than a poorer service at three cents. And service would be sure to be inferior at the latter rate of fare. If this company was not here and a syndicate should offer to expend \$25,000,000 in constructing a similar system and employ 6,000 people, as we now do, the citizens would light boufires and explode fireworks for very joy. A three-cent fare would mean disaster, no doubt, to many roads of this city.

## BIG ITEMS FOR SACESGIRCS.

MISS M. SILDNEK, SALESGIRL IN A LARGE department store in Grand street; I am as a rule obliged to take three cars each way in going to and coming from my work. I do not take three cars every day when the weather is good; I walk the distance covered by one of the cars; but In stormy weather that is out of the question. I have figured out some data concerning this question of car fares. I have I would save \$29.12 in a year

MISS M. M'CARTHY, SALESGIRL: THE change from five cents to a three-cent fore will be hailed with joy by all out of whose earnings this item cuts a big slice. To me it will be a saving of at

least 24 cents a week.
MISS C. JACOBSON, SALESGIRL: MANY A useful article could be purchased with the saving of 2 cents on each curfare. I sincerely hope that the efforts to bring about this reduction will prove successful,

be an actual blessing to many of us to be able to ride for 3 cents instead of 5. To the rich such a saving may not seen worth their notice, but to those who work and have to take several cars to reach the place where they carn their living, such a saving amounts to a great

MISS CLARA LEVVY, SALESGIRL: I HAVE an old and sickly mother to support, and have figured out that I could at least purchase medicine for her from the money saved if the car fare were reduced to.

JULIA M'G. BARRON, SALESWOMAN Every penny tells when one earns only \$5 a week and has another being dependent upon her. I have a little niece whom I

have adopted, and she carns a little as cashgirl. If we could save the two cents daily on our car fare it would be a week-If saving of \$1.20, and with that much more we could get along quite nicely. As it is, we are terribly pinched at times.

#### OCEANIC FAILS TO ARRIVE.

Disabled Freighter Still at Sea-White Star Liner Germanic Overdue-Andelina Probably Lost.

Not one of the dozen or more steamships that reached this port yesterday reported sighting the disabled British freighter The incoming fleet included vessels which had passed through most of the travelled ocean lanes between this and European ports, as well as from South America and the West Indies.

The fact that the Oceanic was not seen THE JEWEL WAS SET DIFFERENTLY.

ird.
location of the vessel was latitude trees 30 minutes, longitude 69 deor less than 100 miles from Sandy

"No," she said, "that is not my ring. The stone is similar to the one I had, but the setting is different."

Captain Gillets commands the Andelina and she carries a crew of thirty-two men. court, and she he is consigned to Delacamp & Co., of this city, and is laden with tea. The ship is owned in London and she is comparatively a new vessel.

This ended Mr by the coachman. Mrs. Dunton Thursday night by

### SOME MISSING LINKS.

crepancies in the Nansen Report.

by Nansen. Referring to the subject to- man. night, he said:

"It is within the bounds of possibility that Nansen reached the North Pole, but it she said, and had a drink. While in the sais improbable that he reached it and started loon, she averred, he had stolen her ring. on the return down the ceast oast of Greenland, as one report says. The prevailing trend of the waters on the east coast is northward toward the Pole. The current swings around the north of Greenland, and then flows in a southerly course along the west coast of Greenland. If reports

the eddles and unspeakable hardships and dangers of the unfathomable waters of the highlands of Northeast Greenland, and then, instead of proceeding westward and southward, he has doubled on his tracks and started against the prevailing currents to return. This, it will strike the Arctic explorers, is unreasonable." lorers, is unreasonable."

He also declares that it would be next to been estranged. impossible for carrier pigeons to live in SCORCHERS TO PAY MORE. such a latitude, and though water fowls, musk ox and other animals live there, their Mutual Accident Insurance Societies natural abode is in that climate. He thinks that the Pole is on land, but does not believe that Nansen reached it.

# NANSEN'S RETURN TOO SOON.

that he is deeply interested in the report, but says that until there is some more certain news he shall continue to believe that the farthest point north which has been | London, Feb. 14.-Mr. Timothy Harring-Greely's expedition.

Drowned While Gunning.

# MRS, HEISER CLAIMED MRS. DUNTON'S RING.

Wife of the Dead Billiard Player Examined the Diamond in Police Court

Said That the Doctor's Wife Had Passed Five Days at Far Rockaway with Heiser.

European ports, as well as from South America and the West Indies.

The fact that the Gecanic was not seen from one of these steamers is taken by invigators to indicate that she has been by ocean vessels.

That the disabled freighter will yet make port safely, her agents, Funch, Edge & Coffell field certain, If no accident had been continued in the continued of the state of the wondering what had become of her, but are her by a proken screw shaft, they are not surprised at her long delay. Her one hope of setting alto port is to get some vessels, and the formation of the state of the Britan stalling ship Andelina, which is one of the stanchest vessel had been ready as a state of the state of the white Star liner Germante should have reached New York yesterday from the White Star liner Germante should have reached New York yesterday from the White Star liner Germante should have reached New York yesterday from the White Star liner Germante should have reached New York yesterday from the White Star liner Germante should have reached New York yesterday from the White Star liner Germante should have reached New York yesterday from the White Star liner Germante should have reached New York yesterday from the White Star liner Germante should have reached New York yesterday from the White Star liner Germante should have reached New York yesterday from the White Star liner Germante should have reached New York yesterday from the White Star liner Germante should have reached New York yesterday from the Star liner Germante which is one of the stanchest vessels in the White Star liner.

The Mhite Star liner Germante should have reached New York yesterday from the court and was a transmit of the Britan sailing ship Andelina, which het Britan sailing ship Andelina, which het Britan sailing ship Andelina, which het Britan sailing ship at least of the Britan sh

This ended Mrs. Dunton's detention in court, and she hurried away accompanied

Mrs. Dunton had been arrested late Thursday night by Patrolman McDonough, of the Mercer Street Station, who found her at Thirteenth street and University Julius R. Fredericks, a Sergeant in the place very drunk and swearing at a crowd of boys which had gathered. She had her Greely Expedition, Finds Several Distant arms around a young man whom she accused of having stolen a diamond ring from her. McDonough took Mrs. Dunton and the young man to the station, where they were ericks, who was a sergeant in the Greely closely questioned. Mrs. Dunton said that expedition, and reached a point some 400 she had been visiting friends in Hariem miles from the North Pole, is very sceptical and that she got off the elevated train at regarding the reported reaching of the Pole Fourteenth street, where she met the young

WENT TO A SALOON.

The young man, whose name the police

west coast of Greenland. If reports are trustworthy, Nansen has gone up the east coast of Gerenland, survived was sen at her home, No. 820 Broadway, and told the story of her experience with

Double Premium Rates for Those Who Ride the Wheel.

It has been decided by one class of insur-

ance companies that the riding of a bleyele Naturalist Newcomb Says Nansen Could is an extra-hazardous risk of life and limb. Naturalist Newcomb Says Nansen Could
Not Yet Have Reached the Pole.

Boston, Mass., Feb. 14.—Raymond Lee Newcomb, of Salem, who was the naturalist of the Jeannette on her trip to the Arctic, said to-day that he discredits the report that Nansen has reached the Pole. Mr. Newcomb says that there is no possible way for the news to have reached Kolymsk or any other place on the Continent.

His second point is that Nansen has not had time to reach the Pole and return to the Continent, or even to reach it, without coming back. He also considers it almost impossible that Nansen, having reached a point which he considered the most northern one possible to reach in the ship, abandoned her and made the journey in sledges.

The difficulties in the way, he says, are too great, and no one who has not been in that part of the Arctic regions can begin to appreciate them. No ship that has yet been built can, in his opinion, withstand the fearful pressure of the jee floes to the north of the Kara Sea. Mr. Newcomb says that there is some more certain the is deeply interested in the report, but says that until there is some more certain containing the protection.

Is an extra-hazardous risk of life and limb. The subject has for two years claimed the attention of all kinds of insurance companies, and the mutual accident societies have doubled the premium rates on that class of risks. It is generally conceded that the action of the mutual companies, regarding which there was not a dissenting sof risks. It is generally conceded that the action of the mutual companies, regarding which there was not a dissenting to expord the faction of the mutual companies.

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One company lass compiled ngures to will be followed by the other companies.

One company lass compiled ngures the colon of the mutual place of injury in the followed where the beggle played an important part in the accident. This company paid out \$19,086, which liceluse received where the bloggle playe The subject has for two years claimed the

Not Endangered by Confinement.

reached by any explorer is 83 deg. 24 min., ton (Parnellite) moved in the Commons toat which point the Stars and Stripes were day an amendment to the address in favor planted by Lieutenant Lockwood, of of the release of the Irish political pris-

Mr. Michael Davitt (Anti-Parnellite) de-Atlantic City, N. J., Feb. 14.—Frank Lee these prisoners was brutally excessive, and Price, aged twenty-two years, a clerk at the their treatment was without parallel

Price, aged twenty-two years, a clerk at the Hotel Luray, was drowned while gunning at Longport to-day. The body was not fored. Price lived in Hartford County, Maryland.

Scretary, denied that the Irish political prisoners were treated differently from other prisoners. If they were kept in prison it was because they had violated the laws. He had not rested satisfied with the regular medical reports regarding the condition of the prisoners, but had sent two special physicians to investigate and report, He had arrived at the conclusion that their being imprisoned did not endanger their health.

There was no special reason why more indulgence should be granted to these men than to non-political prisoners. Their cases would, however, be considerations tending to show that there should be a mitigation of their sentences.